

## Claims

1 *Sub*  
2 *a'*  
3 1. A system for exchanging automotive information between at least two  
4 automotive trading partners engaged in an automotive transaction, comprising:  
5 a universal schema for a plurality of automotive applications;  
6 a routing system for routing transaction elements between the trading  
partners; and  
a transaction management system for managing the transaction elements.

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2 2. The automotive information exchange system of claim 1, further comprising a  
3 mapping system for mapping a transaction element, wherein the mapping system  
4 determines: a source of the transaction element, an application to which the  
5 transaction element is regarding, and a recipient to which the transaction element  
6 should be routed.

1 3. The automotive information exchange system of claim 2, further comprising a  
2 translation system for translating a schema of the transaction element between a  
3 proprietary schema and the universal schema.

1 4. The automotive information exchange system of claim 1, further comprising:  
2 a data management system for providing localized data to the trading  
3 partners;  
4 a security system for controlling access to the automotive information  
5 exchange system; and  
6 an administrative system for managing the automotive information  
7 exchange system.

1 5. The automotive information exchange system of claim 1, wherein a first  
2 trading partner comprises a mechanism for sending a transaction element to the  
3 automotive information exchange system, and wherein the routing system routes  
4 the transaction element to a second trading partner.

1 6. The automotive information exchange system of claim 5, wherein the second  
2 trading partner comprises a mechanism for sending a response transaction  
3 element to the automotive information exchange system, and wherein the routing  
4 system routes the response element to the first trading partner.

1 7. The automotive information exchange system of claim 6, wherein the first and  
2 second trading partners are selected from the group consisting of: an automotive  
3 manufacturer, a automotive parts locator, an automotive parts supplier, an  
4 automotive lending provider, a credit reporter, a motor vehicle department, an  
5 automotive insurance provider, and an automotive consumer facilitator.

1 8. The automotive information exchange system of claim 7, wherein the  
2 transaction element and the response transaction element pertain to an automotive  
3 application selected from the group consisting of automotive parts, automotive  
4 sales, automotive service, automotive insurance, automotive registration,  
5 automotive financing, automotive warranty, and credit reporting.

1 9. The automotive information exchange system of claim 6, wherein the  
2 transaction element and the response transaction element contain transaction data  
3 pertaining to a predetermined automotive application.

1 10. The automotive information exchange system of claim 6, wherein the  
2 automotive information exchange system translates the transaction element from  
3 a proprietary schema of the first trading partner to the universal schema and then  
4 to a proprietary schema of the second trading partner, and wherein the automotive  
5 information exchange system translates the response transaction element from the  
6 proprietary schema of the second trading partner to the universal schema and then  
7 to the proprietary schema of the first trading partner.

1 11. A method for exchanging automotive information between at least two  
2 automotive trading partners engaged in an automotive transaction, comprising the  
3 steps of:

4 sending a transaction element from a first automotive trading partner to an  
5 automotive information exchange system, wherein the transaction element relates  
6 to an automotive application;

7 routing the transaction element to a second automotive trading partner;

8 sending a response transaction element from the second automotive  
9 trading partner to the automotive information exchange system; and

10 routing the response transaction element to the first automotive trading  
11 partner.

12. The method of claim 11, further comprising:

1 mapping the transaction element and the response transaction element  
2 with a mapping system;

3 managing the transaction element and the response transaction element  
4 with a transaction management system; and  
5

6 securing the automotive information exchange system with a security  
7 system.

1 13. The method of claim 11, further comprising:

2 translating the transaction element from a first proprietary schema to the  
3 universal schema and then from the universal schema to a second proprietary  
4 schema.

1 14. The method of claim 13, further comprising translating the response  
2 transaction element from the second proprietary schema to the universal schema  
3 and then from the universal schema to the first proprietary schema.

1 15. The method of claim 11, wherein the transaction element and the response  
2 transaction element are in a universal schema.

1 16. The method of claim 11, wherein the first and second automotive trading  
2 partners are selected from the group consisting of: an automotive manufacturer, a  
3 automotive parts locator, an automotive parts supplier, an automotive lending  
4 provider, a credit reporter, a motor vehicle department, an automotive insurance  
5 provider, and an automotive consumer facilitator.

1 17. The method of claim 11, wherein the transaction element and the response  
2 transaction element pertain to an automotive application selected from the group  
3 consisting of: automotive parts, automotive sales, automotive service, automotive  
4 insurance, automotive registration, automotive financing, automotive warranty,  
5 and credit reporting.

1 18. A program product stored on a recordable media for exchanging automotive  
2 information between at least two automotive trading partners engaged in an  
3 automotive transaction, which when executed, comprises:

4 a universal schema for a plurality of automotive applications;

5 a routing system for routing transaction elements between the trading  
6 partners; and

7 a transaction management system for managing the transaction elements.

1 19. The program product of claim 18, further comprising a first trading partner  
2 that includes a mechanism for sending a transaction element to the automotive  
3 information exchange system, and wherein the routing system routes the  
4 transaction element to a second trading partner.

1 20. The program product of claim 19, wherein the second trading partner  
2 comprises a mechanism for sending a response transaction element to the  
3 automotive information exchange system, and wherein the routing system routes  
4 the response element to the first trading partner.

1 21. The program product of claim 20, wherein the first and second trading  
2 partners are selected from the group consisting of: an automotive manufacturer, a  
3 automotive parts locator, an automotive parts supplier, an automotive lending  
4 provider, a credit reporter, a motor vehicle department, an automotive insurance  
5 provider, and an automotive consumer facilitator.

1 22. The program product of claim 21, wherein the transaction element and the  
2 response transaction element pertain to an automotive application selected from  
3 the group consisting of: automotive parts, automotive sales, automotive service,  
4 automotive insurance, automotive registration, automotive financing, automotive  
5 warranty, and credit reporting.

1 23. The program product of claim 18, further comprising a mapping system for  
2 mapping a transaction element, wherein the mapping system determines: a source  
3 of the transaction element, an application to which the transaction element is  
4 regarding, and a recipient to which the transaction element should be routed.

1 24. The program product of claim 23, further comprising a translation system for  
2 translating a schema of the transaction element between a proprietary schema and  
3 the universal schema.

1 25. The program product of claim 24, further comprising:  
2 a data management system for providing localized data to the trading  
3 partners;  
4 a security system for controlling access to the automotive information  
5 exchange system; and  
6 an administrative system for managing the automotive information  
7 exchange system.

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1 26. A computer system for exchanging automotive information between at least  
2 two automotive trading partners engaged in an automotive transaction,  
3 comprising:

4 a processor;

5 a computer system memory;

6 an interface; and

7 a software product stored on the computer system memory and executable  
8 by the processor, wherein the software product comprises:

9 a universal schema for a plurality of automotive applications;

10 a routing system for routing transaction elements between the  
11 trading partners; and

12 a transaction management system for managing the transaction  
13 elements.

1 27. The system of claim 26, further comprising a first trading partner that includes  
2 a mechanism for sending a transaction element to the automotive information  
3 exchange system, and wherein the routing system routes the transaction element  
4 to a second trading partner.

1 28. The system of claim 27, wherein the second trading partner comprises a  
2 mechanism for sending a response transaction element to the automotive  
3 information exchange system, and wherein the routing system routes the response  
4 element to the first trading partner.

1 29. The system of claim 28, wherein the first and second trading partners are  
2 selected from the group consisting of: an automotive manufacturer, a automotive  
3 parts locator, an automotive parts supplier, an automotive lending provider, a  
4 credit reporter, a motor vehicle department, an automotive insurance provider,  
5 and an automotive consumer facilitator.

1 30. The system of claim 29, wherein the transaction element and the response  
2 transaction element pertain to an automotive application selected from the group  
3 consisting of: automotive parts, automotive sales, automotive service, automotive  
4 insurance, automotive registration, automotive financing, automotive warranty,  
5 and credit reporting.

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